Disinvestment in AI and Pawan Hans Ltd.

1707. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is in favour of the disinvestment proposal for the loss-making Air India;

(b) whether he is not in favour of any dilution of Government stake in Pawan Hans Helicopter Ltd.; and

(c) if so, the reasons with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The Government has approved in principle, bringing down the equity of the Government of India in Air India to 40% through a process of disinvestment by sale of 40% of equity to a strategic partner, upto 10% to employees and the balance by sale to financial institutions and/or on the share market. In the event of the strategic partner being a joint venture with an element of foreign holding, the arrangement should be such as would limit foreign holding in Air India to a maximum of 26% of the total equity.

(b) and (c) No decision has been taken on Disinvestment in Pawan Hans Helicopter Limited.

Generation of non-aeronautical revenue by AAI

1708. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has drawn out a scheme for augmenting of non-aeronautical revenue;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the scheme contemplates reservation of opportunities under the scheme for socially backward classes and the handicapped etc., if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The augmentation of non-aeronautical revenue is an ongoing process in the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to increase its overall revenues. After call of tender, AAI has granted licence to the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) for operation of duty free shops at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calicut, Goa, Hyderabad and Varanasi. Cyber Cafe facility has been introduced at certain airports. Tenders have been invited for STD/Pay Phone System at airports. On the basis of global tender, AAI has offered licence to Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation for operation of Jewellary Shops at Mumbai, Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram airports.

(c) No, Sir.

Duty free shops at International Airports

1709. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have had under consideration the question of setting up "duty free" shops at the five International Airports, other than the existing ITDC ones, since 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay, despite repeatedly inviting tenders;

(c) whether an inquiry has been instituted into the matter; and

(d) the estimated loss suffered with lapse of time?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) have had under consideration the proposal for setting up additional "duty free" shops at five international airports since 1995.

(b) The delay has been largely due to procedural issues and legal problems in finalizing the tenders.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The losses, if any, can be quantified only on completion of the tendering process.